Skerrett A

From Miss Marianne Skerrett. London. Eng.

Windsor Castle Jan. 17. 54
England.

Sir.

At least you will receive one letter post paid, not containing censure or abuse. It is also true that it does not come from South Carolina; as you will see by the date: but from a more distant place: indeed if I did not feel the space so wide, I do not think I should write, or if I am sorry for it afterwards, I can say still for some time, it has not got there yet! for it is I allow an unusual thing to do, to address one unknown, and to remain unknown so long as this part of life is concerned; one often does a thing whose consequences are remote, when one certainly would not do it, if the next hour were to produce them.

I hope however you will not be displeased over a letter which has no other earthly purpose, but to give vent to the feelings of admiration and satisfaction which which reading your book "on Atheism, Theism, &c" have awakened in my mind: it would be presumptuous and untrue to say that I have found in your words what was in my heart, because although the ground you have so beautifully gone over, is one not totally unknown to me, yet you have given a form and fixity to thoughts afloat. I am persuaded in many thousands of minds, that you have done an inexpressible good. You remember, for you are a german scholar, what Jean Paul said of Herder and Schiller "they were both destined to be

Skenett

From Miss Marianne Skenett. London. Eng.

Windsor Castle Jan. 17. 64
England.

Sir,

At least you will receive one letter post paid, not containing censure or abuse. It is also true that it does not come from South Carolina; as you will see by the date: but from a more distant place: indeed if I did not feel the space so wide, I do not think I should write, or if I am sorry for it afterwards, I can say still for some time, it has not got there yet! for it is I allow an unusual thing to do, to address one unknown, and to remain unknown so long as this part of life is concerned; one often does a thing whose consequences are remote, when one certainly would not do it, if the next hour were to produce them.

I hope however you will not be displeased over a letter which has no other earthly purpose, but to give vent to the feelings of admiration and satisfaction which which reading your book "on Atheism, Theism, &c" have awakened in my mind: it would be presumptuous and untrue to say that I have found in your words what was in my heart, because although the ground you have so beautifully gone over, is one not totally unknown to me, yet you have given a form and fixidity to thoughts afloat. I am persuaded in many thousands of minds, that you have done an inexpressible good. You remember, for you are a german scholar, what Jean Paul said of Herder and Schiller "they were both destined to be

Physicians or Surgeons, but God said there are deeper wounds to be healed than those of the body, and they became writers." I believe that I am unadulterated Anglo-Saxon! in so far that all I can take hold of and feel gives me more pleasure if such a sort of word can be used than the best of Speculations! Your book contains both the tangible and the speculative, and you seem to me to be able to do what I have thought could not be done by man but only by God, and that is to generalize and individualize: however I will not take up your time. I will only say one of your ideas has met with the fullest assent in my mind and in my hope and that is on the subject of animals: till within a few years they seem to have been always considered as beyond the pale: not by me certainly: but it is a great satisfaction to me to see that you who can take so high a view of the affairs of man here, and Christianity and God, can also do so for the class which we call the lower animals. I shall read often of your works, and I am persuaded that I shall feel stronger and stronger - how great a power you have, and I wish you Sir to have a long life and a happy one, for your own sake and your hearers and readers "we'd grudge you sair, to the land o' the leal"!

I sign my name, which will not however enlighten you greatly. believe me Sir,

yours respectfully,

Marianne Skerrett.

I must add a line to say how charmed I have been with a great many of the poetical quotations interspersed in your chapters; you have been remarkably fortunate in finding poetry so corresponding to your prose, or does the Prose and Verse, grow in one and the same garden? ——

Buckingham Palace
June 4th 1854

My dear Sir,

On the 8th of last March I recevid your kind answer to my letter and I wrote again to thank you for it, and to answer some questions you naturally asked about myself — and to express to you how gratiful I felt for your writing, and how I hoped you would write some time again. I sent my letter 18th of March, and though it is not long, and I am not impatient, and on the contrary, should be sorry if you had given yourself trouble to answer that second letter so soon as you did the first, which would be foolish on my part, yet as there are such events as letters not getting to their destination, and as I should be most deeply sorry to have appeared to you either capricious or ungratiful indeed both, I dont help writing a few more lines, and if these reach you, you will at some time tell me if you got my second letter; one reason the more is, that a long and old friend of mine the Honorable Miss Murray, cousin of the present Duke of Athole, and

one of the Queens Ladies, is going to pass nearly a year in America, and she has said she would carry a letter to you from me, and I think I shall write by her, but private hands, how good soever they may be in other ways are not always the best letter holders, or carriers. I cant wait tell she goes and hereby I wish to tell you of her coming: she goes out with Mrs Follen, with whom she has been intimately acquainted since her residence in England: of course I mean the widow of that good man Dr Follen. Miss Murray will leave England in July, and her first place I think will be Boston. She has seen some of your works, and has been greatly struck by them: she is a woman who has always moved in the great world, and has an acquaintance with almost all those who are considered worth knowing: while she was maid of Honour I naturally saw a great deal of her because we had tastes and freinds in common, but when she outgrew being maid of Honour, she became Woman of the Bedchamber, and she no longer resides in the Palace during her period of waiting, but she often and often comes, and it was seeing your book on my table about a month ago, made her say, if I do go to America I will go and see Mr Parker though I do not know him. I then told her how I had written, and you had replied, and so we agreed, that when she went to Boston, she should call in my name, or I shall write by her in the chance of your meeting, but shall once again "trust the winds, and trust the fellow waves" with

a letter. I am reading now your "Discourse of matters pertaining to religion," and as I read it and feel my line more and more the power and goodness of your thoughts and your wide learning, I cannot bear the idea that my letter of thanks should not have reached you, and having once got as near as I probably ever shall be to one who could write that beautiful Chap. VI "Of the party that are neither Catholic nor Protestant," I could not bear the idea of even that thin strand of paper and ink being broken. In my last letter I told you the little that I had to say of myself with respect to family and place, just because you must naturally have a claim to know to a certain degree the person who could not help writing to you after reading your works: if you and Miss Murray meet, she can tell you more than a letter ever can, without being a most tiresome and useless piece of autobiography. She goes buoyant with the expectation of all she shall see in your country: she is a good botanist, a most active mind, immensely set on improvement and education, and she can tell you at once of all the juvenile delinquents of the country an you care not to know! She is one of the great movers in mending prison discipline, and educating the young ones coming up, and she has had to do with all the great and little people who have helped progress, and tried to keep it back: I made her read the other day, my favorite piece or one of my favorite pieces of yours, the Oak tree of which I spoke to you, and I read it to one whom I consider the greatest of Poets, by the paint brush,

and heart and soul, though not by the pen, Sir Edwin Landseer, and he felt it as I knew he would, I read to him some other parts too, and I showed him your letter to me. I shall send this to the post tomorrow, and if it ever reaches you, dont wait for Miss Murray to tell me you have had it, and dont call me vain, and above impatient, only a little so —

I remain my dear Sir, yours sincerely,
Marianne Skerrett.

Buckingham Palace
June 10th 1854

My Dear Sir,

I hope before this note reaches you, you will have received a letter from me saying that a most kind friend to me, the Honorable Miss Murray one of Her Majesty's ladies going to America on a tour, was desirous of seeing you, some of whose works she has read and greatly admired. I told you all this in a letter sent by me about 5 days ago, but I only repeat the plain statement of the thing now. Miss Murray is on the eve of her departure, and this letter I shall give her today. I hope you will meet and Miss Murray will be able to tell many things in relation to me, which are too long to be put into letters, but which can be said in

a few words; and I hope if Miss Murray and I meet again, I shall have the pleasure of hearing that she has seen you. I only hope you got a letter I sent to you on the 17th of last March, an answer to your kind and letter; you must not think I am claiming you as a correspondant, when I know how occupied you must be, only I am anxious that you should not think I left this letter unanswered – and I wrote last week to tell you about Miss Murray.

I remain my dear Sir,
Your sincerely obliged
Marianne Skerrett

Osborne. Isle of Wight.
Oct. 6. 1851

My dear Sir,

I received your letter of the 30th August on the 1st of Sept: and was very glad to get it, not that I expect you to give up your time, but I was only anxious to get it in particular, because it showed me that you had received the one I wrote to you in answer to your first letter. I had seen your name in the papers as having been most active in a cause, which is of deep interest and importance. The abolition of slavery, is I think certain, but how long it will be before it is completed is out of human reckoning, but it can only be worked out with zeal and honesty, such as yours is, and the success

must be waited for. Perhaps it is nearer than we think and that you may live to see its termination. When one looks at the immense number of abuses and evils which have to a certain degree at least been wiped away since this century has commenced, what may one not hope for at the increased rate at which all is passing now, and changing and expiring: take only the space of time from 1789, when first the French revolution really declared itself, and let me ask myself if it is the same world now as then. I am far from being an optimist, and I am sure I live in great grief and vexation at a great deal that is now around me and close at hand, but I cant but say there has been a great improvement in the views of man, and even in governments to a certain degree. The spirit of this age is democratic, and that is a good spirit I think for general welfare, but when it contends with the old worn out though not cast off opinions of absolute power, the duties of subjects, the necessity of implicit obedience to the powers that be, then it is but a conflict enmity, and when misery and destruction are brought on, the fault is laid all on one side, and that is on Democracy.
There was a very clear pamphlet published at the end of the Derby government, called the Immorality of public Men, one the most severe and most unsparing things I ever read and very well written: but not to take up your time on these things, one remark I may quote, and that is, ~~and that is~~, that

the author says there will be no real compact between subjects and Governors or rulers like the Governors work with the people and not for them, for doing a thing for them of itself draws a line between the two parties, which should not exist. I expect the struggle now taking place, will greatly affect and alter the position of all the kingdoms in Europe: this is the first that may be called a war whose object is not extension of territory. It is a war that professes to be, and is I think, open and marked injustice, and in so far is an improvement on war, but I cannot help looking on all these events as springing from the revolution of '89, and that the causes of that are still working in these days, though differently expressed. I do not know what news you (I mean America) will continue to take. I hope nothing will disturb the good understanding between this country and yours, which after all I like to consider as one people. You seem to me to be a little disposed to acquiring foreign dominion. I suppose you take an interest in the things what are now passing, though your sympathies are naturally most engrossed nearest home. I assure you I always look at the American news in hopes to see your name for good sterling words. I have not received the sermon you kindly say you have sent me. I do not know why, but there are more mistakes about letters and parcels from America than in any other department. An old friend of mine, not unknown by name to you literary people in America, Miss Mitford, complained in a letter I had from her yesterday,

that some books or papers she was to have had from America are not forthcoming, but she adds that is always the case with American parcels. If I knew the name of your sermons or essays, or exactly how to ask for them I have no doubt I could get them from Low and Chapman & publishers here, who have a great trade in American works. Chapman has published several of your works, and I have lately been reading that most admirable work of yours called "a Discourse pertaining to matters of Religion" that is published here by Chapman — I should be very sorry if even for the general good, you were quite taken away from study and literature, for with a mind such as yours, and a power of language what is possessed by very few, I think it would be almost as great a public loss, as if you refused to enter into bustle and noisy life, as you call the active duties. I read in the advertisement for the Quarterly Review, which is due for this month, an essay on your writings, and as they add, on the modern sects. The book is not out I think, at all events I can not get at it till I get back to Windsor Castle which will be next week. I shall not expect anything good from the Review, for the writers in the Quarterly take for the most part a diametrically opposite view to your book on religion and politics.

I suppose you see most of the things published here and our newspapers: the only thing which I would like to enquire more about is your views about Louis

Napoleon. You seem to think more of him than of all the french people. Without having any motive to set him up I still think him superior in views and intellect to his Brothers, and though I certainly am not an advocate for despotism of any kind, yet I think if he was to get France into anything of a settled form*, there was nothing for it at that time but a crushing power to restrain them. I almost think that if his dynasty last, or I should rather say if his life lasts, he will show an immense pre-calculation of events; in fact all his actions seem to be the result of far back resolutions and reflections, as in fact that book of his published years ago, and what he called ideeas Napoleonniennes proves — the irregular combination of this country and France is by many not expected to last; I cannot there quite agree, and I have a sort of fear, that if we split or when we split the first act will come from us.

I wonder whether Miss Murray has crossed your path: I should be very glad if she does as it will form a more tangible link than a few letters.

I shall now stop this letter, and shall hope that some day or other, I may again have the pleasure of seeing your hand writing for thinking as you do, one likes to be something more than one of the totally unknown public

I hope you take care of your health and if you do let your books and your tastes give way to public labor you will not let your health do the same thing.

I remain my dear Sir, Yours very respectfully and very much obliged

that some books or papers she was to have had from America are not forthcoming, but she adds that is always the case with American parcels. If I knew the name of your sermons or essays, or exactly how to ask for them I have no doubt I could get them from Low and Chapman & publishers here, who have a great trade in American works. Chapman has published several of your works, and I have lately been reading that most admirable work of yours called "a Discourse pertaining to matters of Religion" that is published here by Chapman — I should be very sorry if even for the general good, you were quite totally away from study and literature, for with a mind such as yours, and a power of language what is possessed by very few, I think it would be almost as great a public loss, as if you refused to enter into bustle and noisy life, as you call the active duties. I read in the advertisement for the Quarterly Review, which is due for this month, an essay on your writings, and as they add, on the present duties. The book is not out I think, at all events I can not get at it till I get back to Windsor Castle which will be next week. I shall not expect anything good from the Review, for the writers in the Quarterly take for the most part a diametrically opposite view to yours both on religion and politics.

I suppose you see most of the things published here and our newspapers: the only thing which I would like to enquire more about is your views about Louis

Napoleon. You seem to think more of him than of all the french purple. Without having any motive to set him up I still think him superior in views and intellect to his Brothers, and though I certainly am not an advocate for despotism of any kind, yet I think if he was to get France into anything of a settled form, there was nothing for it at that time but a crushing power to restrain them. I almost think that if his dynasty last, or I should rather say if his life lasts, he will show an immense pre-calculation of events; in fact all his actions seem to be the result of far back resolutions and reflections, as in fact that book of his published years ago, and what he called idees Napoleoniennes proves — the irregular combination of this country and France is by many not expected to last; I cannot there quite agree, and I have a sort of fear, that if we split or when we split the first act will come from us.

I wonder whether Miss Murray has crossed your path: I should be very glad if she does as it will form a more tangible link than a few letters.

I shall now stop this letter, and shall hope that some day or other, I may again have the pleasure of seeing your hand writing for thinking as I do, one likes to be of you something more than one of the totally unknown public

I hope you take care of your health and if you do let your books and your tastes give way to public labor you will not let your health do the same thing.

I remain my dear Sir, Yours very respectfully and very much obliged

12 Sketchley.

Mariamne Skerrett.
I am reading with great delight Bancroft's America.

Windsor Castle Dec. 30
1855

My dear Sir,

I know too well how your time is engaged and the claims on it continually increasing, and therfore though valuing your letters most highly and receiving them with great pleasure, I never expect them in any regular course! But as I wrote to you last July year on Miss Murray's going to America, when I thought the acquaintance would have been pleasant to both, and highly gratifying to her, I cannot let her return, without a few more lines, for I have been greatly disappointed at the results of her journey owing to her opinions having undergone the most strange and unexpected change possible for any one to experience and the more unaccountable to me, knowing as I do, her hitherto mild and benevolent mode of thinking, and I will add of acting, for she is truly and actively good to all, to the extent of her power ___
I have not yet seen the book which is to advocate slavery, as it is not yet published, but will be in a day or two, but I have seen Miss Murray, and have heard a great deal that she has to say, not one word of which appears to me conclusive or rational; but

my purpose in writing now, if indeed I am not making this an excuse for writing to you, which possibly may be, is, to beg you to believe that the feeling in England will be as strongly against her theory, as it can possibly be in some parts of America: and I only hope that Miss Murray's long and intimate acquaintance with the Queen will not induce any one to think that the Queen participates in her views to countenances them in the slightest degree. Circumstances may come out, which will prove the Queen's sentiments on the subject, but as I know how opinions are caught up and turned almost into facts, I cannot withhold from saying, that I hope, you and those who think as truly as you do, will not suppose even if it should be asserted that the Queen tolerates such opinions, in fact the whole course of her life since she has been on the throne refutes any such idea - I have been in her service ever since her accession (at 18) and need not take out myself what is so well known of her liberal views, but I do say with regard to the present subject that she heard with astonishment and deep regret the change that has arisen in Miss Murray's sentiments: she discouraged the idea of publishing any opinions of a political character by the Ladies of her household but of course could not prevent the act. The affair will naturally cause much discussion amongst you, as with us here, but pray do not allow the notion that the Queen has changed her opinions to spread, without contradicting it — Miss Murray is an old and most kind friend of mine, and I cannot express how great is the regret

I feel that she should have taken up a view which I really believe, will in this country be confined to herself, for I cannot believe she will persuade a single individual to adopt it. We shall see in a few months how this will be looked on. I believe you are more and more engaged in public duties: does that quite prevent you from writing again: I have not seen any new work of yours announced: not that I want more than I have, for I can hardly think you can say more than you have in your two most admirable works, and which I have always by me, and often and often look at, and never in vain, so I ought not to ask you if all is done in the book way, for in other ways you will never rest in a great and good cause, and I hope in writing on almost the last day of the year, that I may wish you for the next year, and many more, all the good you can receive. I have taken a great deal of your time I am afraid with this letter, but I could not help writing for your opinion was the first I thought of on this occasion. If I had not written so much I could say a great deal on "the song of Hiawatha", which I am more than delighted with. I have read it over and over till I know a great deal of it by heart! and if I had time, and you were not waiting for me to end, tell how others also have been charmed with it. It has gone through here four editions of the small copy, and of the other I believe also. I think America is carrying every thing in writing.

prose and verse. I saw a copy to day of Herbert's poems from which you quoted but I had not time to look for the lines, and the book was not mine.

Believe me my dear Sir, with feelings of the utmost respect and regard, yours sincerely

Marianne Skerrett.

Osborne, Isle of Wight
England.

My dear Friend,

Since you are so good as to give me that name, you will accept the same from me, I am sure though I have done less to deserve it from you, than your kindness has given to me. I have received your letter the 9th of this month, and take nearly the first opportunity I have of sitting down in peace and quiet to reply; as I am however not certain of writing this all at once, I will first answer your natural enquiry about me and explain in a very few words, what if I suppressed would look, dating from a Count! as if I were beginning the first chapter of one of Mrs Radcliffe's Romances by veiling in mystery, what is very plain and unimportant. I am unmarried, and not young, having been born in the last century, though not very deep in it: on my Father's side my people were all West Indian proprietors, and I on the mainland in Demarara and Martinique

On my Mothers side my grandfathers were the first protestants who came to England on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and succeeded greatly as merchants, and finally some had not bad places under government. My Grandmother was descended from some of the old Roundhead families in England, Andrew Marvell, and Col. Alured being two of her lineal ancestors — my Father was ruined by public measures, as a great many West India planters were, and also by private mismanagement, and my Sister and myself became left to fight through great evils, and troubles, after having been brought up till just entering life, with great expectations as West Indians were you know in the last generation. We kept however our individuality and I hope our integrity, and in process of years a very small independence came to her, and immediately after on the accession of the Queen through the kindness of Lady Landsdowne, and another much dearer friend both now dead, I was put about the person of the Queen to find my way, and do the best I could, the best was the most and most straight forward way, and I have been here ever since, which is all but 17 years, as long as her Majesty has been on the throne. You will see a great deal has been passed and gone through in the time I have mentioned, and if you and I were talking instead of reading letters across the Atlantic there would be something to say, but as

it is, I only wished to tell you who I am and why I am here. My sister and myself think and have acted through life as much alike as two persons can, for with the greatest invisibility there is always a difference between persons: we help each other as we can, and it is my best time when we are in London as then I can see her, and sometimes ~~a~~ other friends; for my life is one of great confinement: at other seasons of the year I am obliged to write, and I only wish for the sake of my correspondents, my hand was a better one. My family, my mother's in particular was always most devoted to Literature, and I have not been a renegade in that respect; in fact if it were not for my love of reading and my being able in some respects to command books, I don't know how I should have got through the time here: but I feel and I felt through trials more difficult than this, that it all tended to good somehow or other, and I firmly believe that had we lived always as we began life, I should not have had my mind open enough to admire and respect such a book as yours, and which made me take the liberty of telling you so. The first notice I had of your writings was in a note of a most beautiful essay called "Catholicity Spiritual and Intellectual" by a Mr Wilson who however gave up his church or living before he published it: you may have seen it, if you have you will have admired it; at the risk of making this letter too long, in speaking of Mackay's work on the progress of the intellect he adds, "The erudition of the

distinguished author seems equalled by his temperate but most uncompromising conscientiousness; when new worlds voices like Emerson's, Parker's, Channing's &c &c are cheering across the Atlantic to Mackay, Newman, illegible Foxton and the slumbers of conventual conformity are likely to be troubled as were once the stale waters of Bethesda's pool! What strikes one with most pleasure in your writings, is not the dogma for that indeed you have not, but the faith and belief in the unknown, and that is a greater thing than one at first imagines: it is very easy to talk and to express the feelings of faith, but far more difficult to keep up at all times with it. One's mind naturally seeks for something to stick to, as one's hand does for something to hold to and to care for and retain, and in the eternal silence something checks the feeling not of belief in what is and what will be, but in one's own comprehension of it: every now and then one feels as if one were perhaps even now not on the right tack, and then one feels a vacancy which I pray never lasts, but which wants something tangible to fill up: in fact it is not the hope or the faith which is wanting, but the high and happy feeling which such things should give, is not always at the same standard, "it flows like the Solway, but ebbs like its tide" — Your book helps one through a world of little mean unfaithful moments, and I look on it as a blessing. I could go on pointing out to you the parts I most admire, but I have not a

letter illegible

and I do not like the idea of your clear thoughts
in printed words with my rather undefined ones in a
vile pen and ink shape. — the care of animals is to
me the most of all: when man is ill-used, and
God knows how ill he is used, he has at least his mind
and his hope of something to carry him through, and he
may fall in with some one to help him, and he is at least
an equal: but the poor beasts what have they — nothing —
they have no chance and no redress — they are made to
labor against their natures — they are mutilated, half
starved &c, they have no voice which is understood and
nothing but sheer bodily misery. I cant express to you how
I feel their case. As to compensation, I hope they have it
or will have it: in fact if it were not so, our thread of
hope is broken on other matters. What they do to each other
I dont mind, though certainly if ever I could whip a
cat, it would be when she goes on with a mouse as
she does: but it is the cruel injustice that we commit
on them that goes to my heart: independently of all
that, I am excessively fond of them and have some of
their worshipful company! and they all seem to have
to me, and some cross Parrots I know are very good
with me. I am delighted with your account of the
Oak tree and its inhabitants, independant of the moral
and I should be very glad to make the acquaintance of
the Hay Mouth, the Horn Bug, the 17 year Locust (what
is it?) and all the funny and feathered creatures you
name. I have always had from a child the greatest
love for natural history in all its branches, and rock-

distinguished author seems equalled by his temperate but most uncompromising conscientiousness; when new worlds voices like Emerson's, Parker's, Channing's &c &c are cheering across the Atlantic to Mackay. Newman, illegible Foxton and the slumbers of conventual conformity are likely to be troubled as were once the stale waters of Bethesda's pool! What strikes one with most pleasure in your writings, is not the dogma for that indeed you have not, but the faith and belief in the unknown, and that is a greater thing than one at first imagines: it is very easy to talk and to express the feelings of faith, but far more difficult to keep up at all times with it. One's mind naturally seeks for something to stick to, as one's hand does for something to hold to and to care for and retain, and in the eternal silence something checks the feeling not of belief in what is and what will be, but in one's own comprehension of it: every now and then one feels as if one were perhaps even now not on the right tack, and then one feels a vacancy which I know never lasts, but which wants something tangible to fill up: in fact it is not the hope or the faith which is wanting, but the high and happy feeling which such things should give, is not always at the same standard, "it flows like the Solway, but ebbs like its tide" — Your book helps one through a world of little mean unfaithful moments, and I look on it as a blessing. I could go on pointing out to you the parts I most admire, but I have not a

letter illegible

and I do not like the idea of your clear thoughts
in printed words with any rather undefined ones in a
vile pen and ink shape — the care of animals is to
me the most of all: when man is ill-used, and
God knows how ill he is used, he has at least his mind
and his hope of something to carry him through, and he
may fall in with some one to help him, and he is at least
an equal: but the poor beasts what have they — nothing —
they have no chance and no redress — they are made to
labor against their natures — they are mutilated, half
flayed &c. they have no voice which is understood and
nothing but sheer bodily misery. I cant express to you how
I feel their case. As to compensation, I hope they have it
or will have it: in fact if it were not so, our thread of
hope is broken on other matters. What they do to each other
I dont mind, though certainly if ever I could whip a
cat, it would be when she goes on with a mouse as
she does: but it is the cruel injustice that we commit
on them that goes to my heart: independently of all
that, I am excessively fond of them and have some of
their worshipful company! and they all seem to have
to me, and some cross Parrots I know are very good
with me. I am delighted with your account of the
Oak tree and its inhabitants, independent of the moral
and I should be very glad to make the acquaintance of
the Hay Oxeth, the Horn Bug, the 17 year Locust (what
is it?) and all the funny and feathered creatures you
name. I have always had from a child the greatest
love for natural history in all its branches, and took-

-ing comes amiss to me in that way. I think it is time to stop this now, Sir, or else you will never give me another line: if you can do so pray send it. Some of the poetry you quote is beautiful, and what George Nesbit is it. I have read some of the American writers with the greatest admiration, and John Whittier I know intimately. I mean some of his poems: that one on the death of Dr Follen is beautiful. No one can be more ardent for freedom of thought and freedom of body than I am: no one can more revolt from absolutism in every form and shape, but I think you seem a little hard on Louis Napoleon: why do you? I allow he is despotic but the French evidently like it. I dont think his government so bad as that of Louis Philippe and if you look at his course you must see a regular vein of moral as well as physical courage, and a self reliance (I mean a non-reliance on others which few Sovereigns have). I am not going to hold him up as a model Sovereign, at the same time on the continent which do you think better, (I say on the continent for this being a contraband kingdom, and I being in the Service of the Queen am precluded from any remark). I doubt if he would act as the King of Naples has to his people. I think in a few generations more the office of Sovereign will be more defined, and consequently more useful to governors and governed. Your country is the one in the ascendant, if once it could get rid

of the slavery in some parts of it. And now my dear Sir, good bye, and a thousand thanks for your goodness in answering my letter.

believe me always your sincerely grateful
M. Skerrett.

Though my address is not there now, Buckingham Palace is the best, because wherever we are, messengers leave for us twice a day.

Buckingham Palace
Feb. 7 20.

My dear Sir,

It is a long while since I received your last letter, which I thanked you for most sincerely. I know at all times how your time is taken up, and from some things I have seen, extracts in our papers of American events, I am afraid that you are feeling the effects of a generous care for others. I know you are one to carry out in action what your admirable words express to the eyes, and from you it is almost certain immense good may arise: but one cannot contemplate that without great anxiety for your personal welfare, and it is only and solely to say this that I write these few lines, not knowing where to address you, but supposing that at Boston your address is too well known for me to doubt of your receiving it: pray some time let me hear how you are, and what you think of all that is going on.

I do not mean to be so unreasonable as to ask
for much detail, and in fact I shall be satisfied
if I hear in time that you are well.
With many thanks to you for your kind letter,
and sincere hopes for your welfare,
believe me dear Sir
Your sincerely obliged
Marianne Skerrett.

From Miss S. D. Collet. London. England.

27 Carlton Road.
Kentish Town. London
Dec. 15. 1856.

Dear Sir,

I am afraid you must have thought me very unmindful for not having earlier thanked you for your most kind and welcome packet, forwarded thro' Mr Chapman. It gave me very great pleasure, as did the kind letter which accompanied it, dated 4th August, and both reached me early in September. We have moved house since then, and all my correspondence and arrangements were consequently unsettled state both before and afterwards. But better late than never, I sit down to thank you both for myself and my friends. The "Miscellaneous Essays" I had the pleasure of discovering, some 13 years ago, when such a book was a precious rarity. I shall prize much the beautiful copy you have sent me. Mr Crossley writes to me - "Give Theodore Parker my hearty thanks for his packet, and my heartiest sympathies and regards." Mr O'Kelly (whom I do not personally know) writes to me, that "He prizes the four works sent him by that noble and eloquent man, Theodore Parker, and must beg Miss Collet to thank Parker when she writes to him — and thank him with hearty affection". In a second note he expresses his gratification since reading the pamphlets through, and sends you a cordial message on the subject. I much regret that I have mislaid the note, and cannot find it again, nor

recall its precise words. Mr Holyoake writes you a note of thanks himself, which I enclose in this. The "History of the Fleet St House" of which he speaks, I shall send in a few days to Mr Trübner (my publisher) who will forward it to Boston. I have added to it a Sermon of Mr Crosskey's which he sent me for you before I received your letter. I also send a singular little tract by another friend of mine (though here anonymous) Mr Robert W Mackay, the learned and estimable author of the "Progress of the Intellect", a valuable work (Theistic), published in 1851 (in 2 large vols) on the Philosophy of mythology, Pagan, Jewish and Christian. I think he overstates the case in this tract - but it is worth reading. I also send a No of the Reasoner with a brief notice of your Defence, by myself, and a Report of the Glasgow Secular Schools.

We are all anxious to know what course you of the Free States intend to take, now that your election has terminated so disastrously for liberty. I see the N. Y. Tribune speaks hopefully, but whether this is the general feeling I cannot tell. The horrible extracts we continually see from Southern papers in recommendation of Slavery as a principle to be applied to all labourers - (N.B. You should quote to them the text "My Father worketh hitherto and I work") and urging the reopening of the African Slave Trade, do give us very gloomy forebodings. There is no consolation viz: that if it be true that "whom the Gods would destroy, they first deprive of understanding" - the South is certainly doomed - for a more genuinely diabo

ic set of principles, never before, (one would think) found their way into print than the last few months of Southern journalism have displayed. Can you, at your leisure, inform me to what facts you allude when, in one of the speeches you sent me, you spoke of the recent burning of negroes, and implied that Christian ministers stood by, and called it a Christian act? To us, here, it appears as if your nation had gone half mad when we hear of such things. In a recent account I saw quoted from a Charleston journal of a conversation of some Southerners with you and Mr Garrison, at your house. (an account written, for once, by a gentleman and not a brute,) I saw it stated that Mr Garrison admitted to the writer that Southern slavery was one of the mildest forms of servitude known in history. Surely the writer must have misunderstood Mr Garrison — he never could have made such an admission? Compare it with the slavery now current in the Turkish empire, and the contrast is terribly to the disadvantage of America. Even the slavery of old Rome could scarcely have been worse than yours, and in some respects certainly less galling, as the victims had fewer chances of falling into it from the refinements and educations of civilization, a fate which must drive any human creature wild with excess of horror. We English can do little or nothing to help you in this vital struggle; but it is said "they also serve, who only stand and wait", and if we can help to swell the force of educated opinion in your favor, it may not be useless; as the mountain rains add to the ocean waves.

If you can enlighten us in any way, pray do so. I am

sure Mr Holyoake will always be glad to print or review in the Reasoner, anything instructive on the subject and many of his artisan friends emigrate to America, and of course help to increase one or the other party whether.

I hope your health is restored by now, and that all these exciting events do not undermine it. We cannot spare you yet from fighting the good fight.
My mother and I have removed to a very healthy and pleasant place in the suburbs of London, which suits us much better than the town. I shall give myself the pleasure of sending you from time to time, anything I may write, which has a chance of interesting you; and with best regards and thanks,

believe me, dear Sir,

yours most truly.

S. D. Collet

From Geo. Jacob Holyoake, London England

147 Fleet Street
London 06 Oct. 1856.

My dear Sir.

Allow me to acknowledge the honour you do me by forwarding the volume of your "Defence". Both for its own sake and because you send it, I shall much esteem it. By my excellent friend Miss Collet permit me to send you a small "History" we have just published, chiefly as an explanation of what we are trying to accomplish in, as I trust you will be able to think, in no sectarian sense.

Your name and your more salutary influence is felt all over England. Every where in debate, I find your teachings brought forward on the platforms, by Ministers who have learned new freedom, new principles, and what they much needed, graces of spirit from your pen. Clear differences from your views on essential points does not prevent appreciating your great excellencies, nor from thanking you sincerely for releasing the Popular Theology of our time. Many Journalists among my friends, who agree with you closely, frequently express to me their high estimate of your great world-wide services.

No less do I thank You for casting your lot so valiantly with the cause of the slave. Judging that you, Mr Garrison, and Wendell Phillips, foresee that the Slavery question must end in battle and that you do mean it to do, I now approve the policy of your speeches and invectives which hitherto I have dissented from.

Ever yours sincerely. Geo: Jacob. Holyoake.

From Robt Everest. London. Eng.

Reform Club - Pall-Mall - London
Jany 7th 1856

My dear Sir.

Our mutual friend Mr Sidney Homer of Boston has permitted me to use his name as an introduction to you — I therefore take the liberty of begging your acceptance, of a small pamphlet, which accompanies this, by which you will see that I have been through your country, collecting information — I am now at a loss for more, and Mr Homer has been so good as to say that he was sure you would put me in the way of getting it, if any person would —

Under this favorable impression of your kindness, I take the liberty of inquiring where I can get a Statement of the Births in the State of Massachusetts, for a certain period - say 1 year (but 3, 5, or more years would be preferable), and out of the total Births the number that were Illegitimate — To make this information of more value, it would be desirable that besides the number of Births of each kind, legitimate and illegitimate there should be stated the number of each, that were, by foreign by colored, or by native white Mothers —

I am also desirous of knowing for the State of Massachusetts, or for the whole of the New England States, or for any one of them, the quantity of Spirits consumed in a year — It would be preferable that this year should be as near as may be to 1850 (the year of the last Census)

that the consumption per head may be correctly ascertained —

The perusal of my pamphlet will explain to you the object of my researches — I am endeavoring, if possible, to trace numerically, the effect of institutions on the human character — and it is a part of my plan to make comparisons between the British Provinces of North America, and the States adjoining them —

Pray excuse the liberty I have taken in troubling you, and with great respect believe me,

Yours very sincerely,
Robert Everest.

Reform Club - Pall Mall - London -
March 24th - 1856 -

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you for a very nice parcel of publications, relating to Crime, Pauperism, &c in the State of Massachusetts, which were indeed most acceptable —

I forward to your address at Boston by next steamer my, "Journey through the United States", and another small paper on the emigrants, by which you will see what I thought of the States during my visit there —

I beg your acceptance of these publications, with my best wishes, and only regret I had not the good fortune to make your acquaintance, during the short stay I made at Boston —

I wish very much to obtain the numbers of Police and Watchmen, or night watch, in the City of Boston, and

the number of arrests made by them in a year — for the year of the Census, if possible — or as near to it, as can be had — Also, any Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths, that are printed, for either of the New England States (except Massachusetts which you have been already so good as to send me) — The results of this Massachusetts Registration are very interesting compared with those of Europe, as they show a much smaller proportion of Illegitimate Births — than in Europe —

If you can send me either of the two items I have mentioned you will add to the great obligation I lie under towards you —

With best thanks for your kindness,

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Everest.

Reform Club — Pall-Mall — London —

May 23d 1856.

My dear Sir,

I received a few days ago the second parcel you have been so good as to send —

Pray accept my best thanks for your great kindness —

Please to take a note of what you send me, as I see in this second parcel there is a copy of the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Massachusetts; for the year 1854, which you have sent me once before —

I have read with great pleasure your Defence - It is worthy of a descendant of the pilgrim fathers —

I have dispatched this Evening to your address, 3 publications, separately, as I am informed that is the best way of sending them — The first is "the British Almanac" in which is an Article headed "Cost of War". This gives in detail the expenses of the war which ended in 1815 — For the one just concluded no very exact details have yet been published — There is an Article on the subject in the Athenæum which I send, and from an old Naval and Military Gazette of Sept- 1855 also sent, you will be enabled to see the number and size of our ships in the Black Sea and the Baltic — Lest these publications, should not reach you soon enough, I add from one of our newspapers a rough estimate of the loss as follows —

War said to have cost

England — Lives — — — — 50.000

Cash in £ sterling (= $5 dollars) 120.000.000

one hundred and twenty Millions —

Cost for us and the French together.

Lives — — — — — 230.000

Cash (pounds sterling) 250.000.000

This takes no account of the wounded and the cripples, who are the most deplorable part of the whole —

You may reckon them at about 5 times the number of the killed.

I wish very much to obtain one more item from Boston - viz. The number of Police and Watchmen for the City in the year 1855, if possible, and the number of arrests made by them in the year —

I hope soon to be able to send you another paper —
Believe me to be, my dear Sir,
Very sincerely yours.
Robert Everest.

Reform Club - Pall Mall - London.
November 7th 1856 —

My dear Sir.

Pray accept my best thanks for a parcel of books, which I have lately had the pleasure of receiving from you —

I should have written to thank you before this, only that I did not get the parcel until my arrival in London a few days ago —

All men of liberal minds, and well wishers to human progress, in this country, are watching with intense interest the present state of affairs in America.

The present appears to be the critical time, the turning point in the destinies of your country —

If the Slave Power succeeds in its attempts — farewell to the republic — farewell to liberty — and hail instead, glory, conquest, Military Edicts, a military dictator, and finally a monarchy — I dare not we must hope for better things. May God bless and prosper your noble exertions in the cause of right —

With best wishes, believe me,
Yours very sincerely
Robert Everest.

Reform Club - Pall Mall - London
March 13th 1858.

My dear Sir,

Your kindness has been so great in sending me information respecting the United States, that I am again induced to trespass upon your patience so far as to ask you to obtain an answer for me to one question further, which is this - You must know then, that we in England who hope for the progress of mankind, watch with ~~great~~ pleasure, not unmixed with anxiety the advancement of your great country -

But occurrences have lately taken place there, which have greatly shocked those observers, who like myself, have faith in republican institutions. I allude to the fights that have lately taken place in the Senate and House of Representatives at Washington - And we endeavor to excuse them to ourselves by saying that they are the effect of Southern institutions or slavery, and not of republican government so called -

What I wish to know is this - Are there instances of fights having occurred in either of the State Legislatures of Massachusetts, or of the other New England States, within the present century? - Perhaps some of your friends well acquainted with your domestic history, will be able to answer this question, and I shall esteem it a great favor if you can send me a reply.

Pardon the trouble I am giving you, but in the present state of public opinion, it is necessary to base every statement in political science upon the most

extensive induction, and to avoid all hasty aspersions.

Believe me to be, my dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely

Robert Everest.

Thow J. H.

From Rev. John H. Thow. Liverpool. England

Liverpool
Oakfield May 3d 1847

first letter is page 39

My dear friend.

I feel that I owe you some explanation of a silence that has been sadly out of character with the warm personal interest I feel in yourself, and the lively concern I take in all that can affect you. You are never very long out of my thoughts: Mrs Thow and myself often talk of you and Mrs Parker: often turn with new pleasure to your writings, and altogether take as much liberty, as we possibly can, in reckoning you among those whom we consider as dear and valued friends, whom it would be a happiness and a privilege to meet again face to face. I say this much because my bad habit of shrinking from all writing, might, after your many tokens of remembrance, be liable to a different interpretation.

It was a peculiar gratification to me that you found anything to interest you in a Sermon I had published in aid of a Dispensary. I had not sent it to you, because I really considered it not worth your notice. Your friendly estimate of it induces me to send you, not for its own sake, but as a testimonial of affectionate respect, another little publication on the hapless state of Ireland, and the face of a Fast in England, which I have been bringing out. These are very trifling returns for the valuable things I have received from you: and yet I am going to urge my petition upon you, that you will kindly remember me in every thing

you publish, and especially in such publications, as from their nature and size, are not so likely to find their way into this country. I received lately the valuable gift of your third Edition of your Discourse. There is an article on you and Strauss in the last Number of the Westminster from the Review of your Work in the Prospective. —

My Colleagues and myself are very ambitious of having occasional assistance from you in the Prospective Review.

We unfortunately have nothing to offer you in the way of remuneration, as the Review has but a very limited Public, and is only just ceasing to be a source of expense to us. But this only shows how bold we are as petitioners and how strong in our confidence that you are so willing to work for love and truth, that the fire burns in you and would consume your bones, if it did not come out.
We of course could not suggest subjects to you, nor in any way dictate the style of treatment that should be applied to them. We have, in talking the matter over, once or twice fallen upon the Jewish Religion and Scriptures as subjects on which we should wish to have an article from you — I mention this only as an example. You know the nature of our work, and you are the only judge of the subjects best for yourself. Believe me that in making this request we are very sensible both of the boldness of our petition, and of the value of what we ask.

Your friend Mr Nunn did not deliver your letter in person, and so I have lost the opportunity of seeing him. I beg you will say to him that it will give me very great pleasure to make his acquaintance: to be en-

abled to tell us any tidings of you and your proceedings would alone insure him a welcome.

This parcel is conveyed by Mr Angier, who has been staying with us for some time. He is a very amiable man — I fear without strong purposes, or any enthusiastic devotion to some good work in life. I am sure he would be a happier man for more of self-devotedness, and that he needs this high labor even to secure a refuge from the sorrows and disappointments of life. I think his high respect for you would give great weight to your influence and advice — and that by drawing him to a zealous devotion to his profession, should the opportunity serve, in which you might prompt or serve him, you would be conferring the greatest good on a man naturally gifted, and requiring only perseverance and strong purpose, and the emancipation of a high and steady aim, to be eminently useful as a Minister.

With our kindest regards to Mrs Parker,

I am my dear friend,

Affectionately yours

John H. Thom

Liverpool. Oakfield July 19th 1849

My dear Friend,

Mr Nonus has written to me offering to take any parcel for you by the packet of the 21st - Alas! I have nothing to send you but a Sermon on a great Cause — but the altar sanctifies the offering — Certainly I send

it to you not for its sake — but wholly as a token of my affectionate remembrance and esteem. We often think and speak of you and Mrs Parker — and last year when we had the intense enjoyment of a seven months Tour upon the Continent, you were frequently in our minds when passing through scenes which you too must have been delighted to find yourselves. We passed from Paris and Naples during the revolutionary time, and from Naples to Rome, Florence and Bologna, Parma, Switzerland, and the Rhine, without encountering a moment's difficulty or obstruction. Such a journey is like a continued intoxication while it lasts — but the sojourn at the several places is too short to give the mind a perpetual possession of them — and one powerful impression effaces another. Surely you will be coming to Europe again to renew the fading colors of your Mental Pictures — or have you that Memory that never loses what once it loved? Few things would give us more pleasure than to receive you and Mrs Parker here — and I hope when next you write you will tell me that sometimes you talk of such schemes.

At Florence I met two of your brethren, Bellows and William Ware. With the latter I was much pleased — tho' he has lost the vigor of health — and I was glad to find him totally without a certain narrowness, dogma and bitterness, and the asceticism which seemed to me to tinge his brother Henry's mind and writings. —

I hope the Massachusetts Quarterly does not disappoint your expectations. I should be glad if we could regular-

Thom J. H

by exchange with one another, it and the Prospectus — and I will give Chapman directions to send it to you accordingly. Our sale is not sufficient to prevent us from loss — but we shall persevere. Mrs Thom desires me to say, that whatever you forget in Europe you are to remember Oakfield and her, and with our best regards to ~~you~~ Miss Parker,

I am dear Sir, most truly your friend,
John S. Thom.

Liverpool Oakfield
April 14. 1845.

letter shown to the 35 page

Dear friend,

I have this day received your welcome letter. I shall wait impatiently for the promised papers.

Some account of your matters is given in the March Examiner, and also in the Christian Reformer one of our Periodicals here, — but I do not trust either of them for the exact facts, — and have small sympathy with the spirit in which they view such facts as they give —

I rejoice that I am able to send you a Copy of the life of Blanco White — You will perceive how fragmentary and imperfect in the latter portion it is. — but even the separate ~~facts~~ parts are valuable, and show the quality of the man. I hope for some good from the work. — especially from the fact which it exhibits, that it was with an evident reluctance that he tore himself from his successive orthodoxies, and yielded without terms to the

Reason which God had given him as his Supreme Guide. — Here is a Scholar and a Philosopher and a man of Genius, struggling against his learning and philosophy to keep himself on the side of Orthodoxy, — and in vain. But the book cannot be popular — it is the history of an individual mind peculiarly constructed and circumstanced — and few will bring the qualifications duly to appreciate it, — or give it the study required for full knowledge.

May God support you in your present position, and enable you to bear witness to the Truth, your truth, with meekness and love. I fully agree with your principles as to Miracles, — but I cannot separate the miraculous, i.e. the Special from the construction of Christ's mind. — You see our position in the Prospective, — We should most highly value your cooperation — if you could work with us.
I write in great haste, and with my own and my wife's kindest regards to Mrs Parker,

I am affectionately your friend
John H. Thom.

from J. N.

Liverpool Oakfield
April 10 – 1851

My dear Friend,

This I trust will be presented to you by Mr Holt of Liverpool, who with his daughter is going to form a few months acquaintance with your Country. I have a strong desire that they should see you, – and that you should see them! I know that I need not say more to obtain for them the advantage of some intercourse with you than that Mrs Thom and myself hold them among our most highly valued friends.

Do not abase your own Country and People to them too much: though I shall be glad for them to have the opportunity of hearing from you some Severe and wholesome Truth.

I hope to write to you soon at greater length. With our Kindest remembrances to Mrs Parker, believe me dear Friend with great esteem and affection

Yours ever

John N. Thom.

The Rev. Theodore Parker
Boston.

P.S. Will you have the kindness to inform my friends where they are likely to find Mr Emerson, for whom they have a Letter.

From Rakhal Das Haldar. Calcutta.

To

The Reverend Theodore Parker

&c &c &c Boston.

Reverend Sir,

I, who have the honor of addressing you, am a native of Bengal – since sometime past it is my hearty wish to apprize you of the impression your writings have produced upon me. I hope you will kindly excuse my intrusion on your valuable time considering the motive which has actuated me to address you a letter.

It could not be otherwise than pleasing to you to know that the better portion of the community of this country take an unusual interest in perusing your theological works. For my part I can say, that now and then, I have shed a tear of joy in reading through your exquisite Sermons. With regard to theological doctrines, you appear to me to have reached the utmost refinement of thought. I think I can almost without any reserve, agree with your religious sentiments, as laid down in the work on "Theism, Atheism, and Popular Theology." Encomiums on your writings are quite superfluous from an humble person like myself. They are speaking for themselves loudly to the world at large.

I had picked a few particulars regarding yourself from the excellent Revd C. H. A. Dall American Unitarian Missionary to India. And they have become a source of

price[d] pleasure to me.

I am anxious to know of the progress your doctrines have made in America; and hope you will not refuse to oblige me in this respect.

As yet I do not possess a copy of your works (I mean Discourse on Matters pertaining to Religion, and Theism, Atheism and Popular Theology). The supply of those works here are not such as might be expected, consequently the price is very high. On my asking Mr Dall how I could get a copy of your works from America, he said, that his wife is intimately known to you: and that if I request you to transmit them through her to the care of Mr Dall himself in Calcutta, I can get them. Of course Mr Dall will write to his wife about the matter. If you will kindly comply with my request, no benefit could be greater to me.

In conclusion, I beg, you will be pleased to address me a few lines.

No Roman Catholic keeps the relics of the Saints with more care than that with which I shall keep them.

May God grant you sufficient long life in vain to enjoy the pleasure of seeing your sound doctrines widely propagated, is the earnest wish of,

Your most obedient servant and friend
Rakhal Das Haldar.
Care of Rev[d] C. H. A. Dall
Mountain Hotel.
Calcutta.

Calcutta
25th July 1856.

 Das Waldau

To

The Reverend Theodore Parker, Boston

&c &c &c

Reverend and Dear Sir,

Nothing could be more welcome to me than your favor dated 6th October 1856. Of course, I will keep it as a treasure as long as I live.

I do not wonder that your doctrines have not as yet met with general approbation. To comprehend and appreciate great truths, require proper cultivation of the intellect, and freedom from the shackles of early prejudice.

But I rejoice and thank God that the great law of the Universe is Progress. When such doctrines as yours will be generally received, what a different thing this world will be in its intellectual and moral conditions! May the day come soon!

Three Thousand persons crowding to hear a preacher every Sunday, would be regarded as a marvel here or elsewhere, but for the spiritual riches God has appointed you to pour on your hearers - Would that I had the means of crossing the Ocean and being a partaker of this Joy - When I told you that the perusal of certain portions of your writings has brought out of my eyes tears of delight, I said the sober truth. I ought to mention here a fact that whenever there happens a conversation among my educated countrymen about religious compositions, they unanimously point out those of yours as models. Dr Channing's sermons are undoubtedly excellent, but they want that energy -

that manly boldness — that brilliancy of thoughts — and that something, which characterizes your sermons —

In reply to your kind inquiry "what interests me", I beg to state that it is Religion which interests me above all things. I do not say this as an answer of mere formality — To become an instrument (in the hands of superior power) of propagating such truths as are calculated to elevate men's ideas of God and themselves is what I heartily wish.

As yet we have very few "Thoughtful books" written by my countrymen — At present I can mention the name of one only, by Rammohun Roy. It is written in the Persian language, and entitled "Tohfatool Mohdeen" or "a present to the Theists", and said to be an admirable book. An English translation of it is expected to be prepared and printed ere long. I shall most gladly send you a copy when published.

Rammohun Roy, whose name is mentioned above has founded a new sect here — They call themselves Brahmos or "followers of the Religion of One God". They meet every Wednesday evening in a Hall for divine worship. The fundamental principles of their Religion are the following: The Eternal and Infinite God is the Creator and Preserver of the Universe. He is the fountain of Wisdom, Goodness, Power, Justice and Mercy — The Worship of Him is conducive to happiness here and hereafter. This worship consists of love towards Him and the performance of those works which are agreeable to His benificent Laws. A Journal in Bengali is publish-

ed every month by this sect, in which among other original articles, selections from your writings, and those of Mr Francis Newman, and Fichte &c are printed.

In conclusion, I beg to tender you ten thousand thanks for your kind wish of sending me your works I shall most gratefully receive them.

I remain, My dear Sir,
Your most obliged and devoted Servant,
Rakhal Das Haldar.

Calcutta 15th December 1856.

Jugguddul (via Chandernagore)
11th July 1858.

My dear Sir,

The gracious presents of your works reached me at a time, when I was just about to leave my own country for Orissa. I could then only request Mr Dall to convey you my best thanks for your rich gift. I have now returned home after an absence of more than 10 months.

Your excellent "Discourse of Religion" (which I had not previously seen) was my constant companion in my travels. Since my return, I have perused some of your Anti-slavery speeches, as well as your discourse on the death of Daniel Webster. No remarks as to the merits of your works is needed from an humble

person like myself, save this, that I feel very proud of my Bookshelves being enriched by a set of your volumes.

Mr Dall (who sometimes obliges me by sending American Papers containing Discourses of yours) has sent me the Report of your Sermon of Hard Times, published in the Boston Daily Bee — This is your latest production I have seen.

In a work comparatively insignificant — entitled "Transatlantic Tracings and Popular Pictures from American Subjects" the prejudiced author, besides pouring out his venom upon you, charged you with having "incited murder and perjury into virtues". The attack is on your opinion of a "juror's oath" in the Sermon of Conscience. I am fully aware what importance is to be attached to such charges. But still I should be very glad to know your precise opinion upon the subject.

Your friend Mr Emerson may be pleased to hear that this his Essays find readers here. So many cheap editions of his works are given in England, that they may be found in almost every Library in Calcutta. — Pity that we have no peoples editions of your Books. Mr Chapman's reprints are rarely to be met with.

Presumptuous as it is, I am still tempted to ask you what things have at present engaged the labors of Messrs Emerson, Garrison, and Burritt; and how far the Anti-Slavery cause has triumphed. —

India has now attracted the attention of perhaps all the politicians in the world — I dare say you see the Papers relating to India. The rebellion is unparalleled

in this country - But thanks to the genius of the West, hundreds of thousands of natives, are still living with as much security as ever - We hope the rebellion will soon meet its death blow.

I wish I could always write you upon Eastern affairs, and the Progress of Truth in these regions but the existence of a rule prohibiting the despatch of prepaid letters to United States, prevents my doing so —

Hoping this will find you in good health and spirits,

I remain, Dear Sir, with the highest esteem,
Your devoted servant and friend
Rakhal Das Haldan.

To
The Revd Theodore Parker,
&c &c &c

From Russell L. Carpenter. England.

Dear Sir

I have just been reading your sermons on war and on the punishing classes of Boston, with so very much interest that I cannot refuse myself the pleasure of expressing it. I enclose a little tract, which from its title you may think something out of date: but I fear that the subject on which it treats will always be of painful importance to this country. It was very hastily written, and expresses tamely some things, which I feel warmly: but perhaps there may be a paragraph here and there, which may fall in with your own trains of thought.

I printed it for distribution, and it has been widely disseminated, especially among our Tee-Totallers.

Believe me, Dear Sir,
respectfully yours,
R. L. Carpenter.

Bridgwater Aug 13th 1847.

P. S. I hope that Mr Hincks, the former editor of the "Inquirer" will oblige me by conveying this to you.

Birkenhead July 13th 1852.

My dear Sir,

My sister sends on this note of hers to me in case I should have anything to add. She has been working very hard in the great cause, for which you have your

self done so much, and not I hope without effect.

Her intercourse with persons of influence, had shown her, that it requires some study of a subject, as well as a good disposition, to arrive at that deep conviction of its immense importance, which makes any neglect of it appear sinful. We, in England, are as slow to move, and as wedded to old forms, and as suspicious of new reforms, and as desirous to feel our way, and as terrified at carrying out ~~any~~ of our best impulses, as any of your calculating Yankees.

This has been my own experience in the Peace, Anti-capital punishment, Temperance and other movements; and therefore, as you may possibly have seen, I have resisted the attempt to assume a ~~vain~~ superior and censorious attitude over you, merely because we deem the sin we have no mind to.

I refer, as you may guess to the Anti-Slavery movement. When I remember how some of those now most zealous, once reproved moderate men like my father for at all stirring in the cause, and were the intimate friends of Slaveholders, as long as Slaveholding was a British institution; and see now how tolerant they are of other British institutions, which have a curse in them; I am not disposed to allow them the Pharisees' privilege of standing apart, and saying, I am holier than thou, to our American brethren, without some intimation on my part that I think it unjust.

The knowledge of this state of feeling has led me, in my letters on American Slavery, to express

myself more coolly perhaps, and with a greater desire to show that judging others we condemn ourselves, than I should have thought proper, if I were addressing a community which had to be roused to a sense of their enormity.

I had little or no conversation with you on this topic; and therefor I have not sent you my pamphlet, because I knew that you would not entirely like it; and if I sent it without explanation, you might not have received it as a compliment. Indeed I was pained that you seemed to approve that violence, which in the long run is seldom found to serve a holy cause. I have sent it to Dr. Nay, who would disapprove my cause as much as you could do, because I had a good deal of talk with him on this matter.

I think persons on each side have, in the heat of controversy, been goaded by their opponents into many expressions, which a less excited state of feeling, and a more comprehensive reason would disapprove.

As I have been always accustomed to stand in the foremost rank of Reformers, it has been very painful to me to appear to others in a different position on this question; more especially as it occasioned some separation of feeling between myself and some of my oldest and kindest friends.

However we must do what we think right and leave time to mend things.

Certainly I should not have troubled you with all this talk about myself, if my sister had not tempted me to write something, by sending the open envelope.

I trust that things are now assuming a somewhat more hopeful aspect; and that you are finding the

good fruits of your persevering labors, in the great moral enterprises of the day. I hope that you will be able to give my sister some valuable information on the points she brings before you.

Please to make my respects to Mrs Parker. I have a very agreeable recollection of your kind reception of me, on more than one occasion: and it would be extremely pleasant to me, if you would put it in my power to reciprocate your hospitality.

Believe me, My dear Sir,

respectfully yours.

R. L. Carpenter.

Halifax May 30. 1859

My dear Sir,

I am glad to hear that you are expected in England. I read with much regret the reports of your illness: but your letter, which subsequently appeared in the Anti-Slavery Standard, gratified us with the prospect of your recovery.

I have often recalled the interesting evening I spent at your house in Boston: and I write now to express the hope, that my wife and I may have the pleasure of welcoming you to Halifax. I know of no inducement to offer you. It is not a famous place: though indeed its name has been commemorated in your papers in connection with the munificent gift of a peoples' Park by Mr Frank Crosby.

Carpenter R. L.

It is however a favorable specimen of our manufacturing towns: and is pleasantly situated in the midst of hills and moors. Miss Bronte's Haworth is about 8 miles distant. I think it just possible that, amidst your journeyings, you might not object to some quiet days of rest here. I do not know whether Mrs Parker is travelling with you: but, if so, I need not say that we shall be most happy to see her.

If you think you can come, please to let me know at what time you are likely to be in this part of the country; that we may make our arrangements accordingly. Halifax is about 30 miles from Manchester on the (L & Y) Railroad to Leeds.

My wife, who is much interested in your works, unites in kind respects, and best wishes, with,

My dear Sir, yours very truly,

Rufus L. Carpenter.

54 Carpenter M

From Mary Carpenter. Bristol. England.

Bristol Oct. 14. 1851

Dear Sir.

Will you accept a copy of this work, part of the title of which was suggested by two sermons of yours which I read some time ago with great interest.
If you can make this volume useful in exciting attention to this important subject, I shall rejoice: should you be able to furnish me with any facts, proving that the "Common Schools" of New England do not reach the "perishing and dangerous classes" I shall be obliged to you

I remain, dear Sir,
respectfully yours,
Mary Carpenter.

Bristol Feb.y 10th 1852.

Dear Sir,

I feel much obliged to you for your kindness in sending me the two volumes of your Sermons &c.
I have previously read and valued highly many of them, for though I differ from you as you are probably aware on many important points, yet I highly esteem the earnest and comprehensive manner in which you bring the grand truths of Christianity to bear on the social condition of the world. —

When you have time to read my volume, you will see the object to which I am directing my time and

thoughts — Some of your States are much in advance of us in practical knowledge of the subject, and I shall be much obliged to you, if you will obtain for me, from authentic sources, answers to the accompanying questions or any others on the subject, that may occur to you.
I hope to develope some points further in another volume, "Juvenile Delinquents" — their condition and treatment" and shall be glad to embody in it such information. Hoping for your excuse in thus troubling you,

I remain, dear Sir, yours truly,
Mary Carpenter.

Queries.

I. Whether in the States where "State Reform Schools" are substituted for prisons, all convicted children are sent to them. If not, what are the exceptions. —

II. Whether any punishment is awarded besides the reformatory treatment of the School, and detention therein.
If so, what. —

III. Whether the parent remains in any way responsible for the maintenance of his child while in the Reform School —

IV Whether being sent to such a School is considered a "premium on crime," by the child, his parents, or his companions. —

V. Whether in States where a fair trial has been given to this Reformatory treatment of children, the public has been satisfied of its superiority to the prison system. —

Any additional information will be valued —

Also any particulars respecting the condition of the
pauper and dangerous classes, and the degree
in which the common schools influence them: if
at all ——

Bristol Apr. 29. 1852.

Dear Sir,

I thank you much for the valuable Reports,
which have reached me through the kindness of Mr
Frothingham. My brother Russell is just now staying
with us, and regrets as well as myself, that we had
not the pleasure of seeing your friend, as he forwarded
the parcel from London.

The reports are all interesting and some will be
especially to those of my friends who devote themselves to
the study of Statistics: — those particularly so to me
in connection with my own object, are the Report of the
Board of Education, which contains very important views
on the subject: that of the School for Idiotic children
which developes as all Dr Howe's efforts do, sound and ori-
ginal principles, and to me of course, the Report of the
State Reform School. I have written to the Superintendent
by this post to request him to obtain for me some fur-
ther information. I am preparing a work on "Juvenile
Delinquents, their condition and treatment," and shall
probably devote a chapter to the development of the
experience of Massachusetts on this subject.

A great hindrance to the unanimous carrying out of our views has arisen from the vindictive principle of punishment, which is based on popular theology, and has taken firm possession of the minds of many, who should I think have arrived at a more true conclusion. I believe that no punishment should be inflicted, on a mere vindictive feeling, or imagined retribution, but only such punishment awarded, as will, however severe it may be, have a reformatory tendency. — In many cases those who hold apparently opposite principles, will be found to adopt practically the same measures, and one who holds a purely reformatory theory, may be practically more severe than one who takes an eye for an eye, or gives a boy a sound flogging, and then yields to the kindest feelings of nature in his after treatment of him. But I believe that sound principles are of all important, and that in this case wrong ones lead to so much evil in the minds of many, and produce such injurious influence on the children that I am anxious to <u>demonstrate</u> if possible, that the ends of punishment can be fully effected in the case of children, without any further punishment, than what is the natural effect of their faults, i.e. restraint with reformatory discipline. If you can afford me any further light on the principles and practice of your State on this subject, I shall be much obliged to you —

The ministerial crisis and unstable condition necessarily involves a suspension of efforts to carry out the objects of the Conference, but those who have their hearts in the matter are for employing the time in preparing their

forces, and endeavoring to awaken the public mind.

Believe me to remain, dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Mary Carpenter.

You have I hope received my thanks for your volumes.

Bristol Oct 10 - 1853.

Dear Sir,

I beg your acceptance of another volume in which I have endeavored to put forth the cruel wrong now done to the young delinquents in our country, and to rouse Christian men and women to feel that they are their young brothers keepers, and must pay a heavy penalty if they neglect the sol. ann charge; Will you help these words to be heard in your country? I know of no one who more forcibly than yourself could utter a true and solemn word on this subject, or who could more truly show to society what Christ requires in this matter.

Yours very truly,

Mary Carpenter.

Carpenter M.

Red Lodge House Bristol
March 15. 1859

Dear and respected Sir,

Permit me to add my word of deep sympathy in your illness to the many that have reached you from numberless sorrowing friends — And yet rather than mourn, I would rejoice with great thankfulness, that strength has been given you to meet the disappointment of your hopes, the failure of your strength, the removal from the beloved scenes of your labors, as one who felt that he was only a laborer in the vineyard of One who knows when and where it was best for His servants to work. I have seen and experienced myself, that when the Lord removes either temporarily or permanently any of his children, from a sphere where, humanly speaking, it appeared that they could ill be spared, and never replaced, it has proved after a time, that they were removed at the very moment which was best for the work and for themselves — This pure faith has been a great support to me when valued laborers have been called away, and when I have myself been removed from labors that appeared to want my presence — Will you permit me to express this trust with regard to yourself — Now removed from your beloved flock, your words and works, will have a deeper weight with them, and I cannot but believe that numbers whom prejudice prevented from listening to you when present with them, will now think of your solemn warnings and exhortations, and be moved I trust by them — You will not I hope think

me presumptuous in saying this. Deeply have I sympathized with my friend and fellow-worker Miss Cobbe, in her grief at the tidings of your illness and I pray that if it be the Heavenly Fathers will, you may be restored to some power of resuming the labors so dear to you. I am quite sure that while He grants to those who love and highly esteem you a continuance in life, that life will be a testimony to the true and the good -

It will be a very great pleasure should you visit England to have personal communing with you. Bristol possesses many objects of interest, some in scenery and the vicinity of relics of the wonderful past equalled by none - It will be a ~~great~~ true gratification to me and many others who already know you well from your works to help to make a residence here agreeable.
My dear Father would have rejoiced to greet you here, but is in the other world. His spirit dwells among us -

You are I hope enjoying a period of repose: — may the Heavenly Fathers peace be still in your Spirit, making all bright and beautiful to you. — I am happy to hear that Dr Howe is with you: will you present my respects to him, and say that I observe with deep interest all he is doing, as set forth in his Reports &c. -

Farewell, my dear Sir: did my Sister and her husband Mr Nesbit Thomas, know that I am writing they would I am sure, desire to express their respectful sympathy, and hope for your restoration.

Believe me to remain,

yours with true regard and esteem.
Mary Carpenter.

Red Lodge House. Bristol
May 30th 1859

Dear Sir,

Permit me to add to Miss Cobbe's my word of welcome to our shores, and to express the warm hope that your travels are refreshing and restoring your spirits and health. I understand that you are anxious to proceed at once to the Continent: but I trust you will make some stay in England on your return, and then it will give me true pleasure if you will come to Bristol, where there is very much to interest you. — Should you and Mrs Parker be willing to accept such simple accommodation as I can offer you, I shall be happy if you will make Red Lodge House your home while in Bristol, where many friends will gladly greet you —

Believe me to remain, dear Sir, with respects to Mrs Parker, yours very truly,
Mary Carpenter.

Red Lodge House, Bristol
June 3d 1859

Dear Sir,

I thank you very much for your treasured letter, which I have forwarded to Miss Cobbe, who started this

morning for Dublin — Did I follow the bent of my inclinations I should wish to greet you now in London. But I have been too long trained, to indulge in mere wishes when duty does not point the way.—

I perfectly agree with you in your views of life and death, and the peaceful way of regarding both, which a true belief in Perfect Love enables us to take. —

But Paul felt a tie to life when he saw much to be done — We are permitted to desire it, and it is too sacred a trust not to watch it with jealous care. May the means employed restore you to us.

The paper you promised will be thankfully received — I send you my last efforts which you will like perhaps to look at when at leisure —

The "Claims" involve an important principle which I shall battle for to the end.

I shall look forward with great pleasure to seeing you here.

With kind regards to Mrs Parker and Miss Stevenson,

Yours very truly,

Mary Carpenter.

Red Lodge House. Bristol

June 12th 1859.

Dear Sir,

May I ask that Mrs Parker, if you are too busy, will kindly send me a line, to say how you are and how long you will be in London? I feel very

desirous to have the privilege of seeing you before your departure from England, the future being so uncertain to all of us —

From not seeing your name mentioned as in London, I fear that you are not strong enough to be present at them. Perhaps however you feel as I do that doctrines of religion ought not to be separated from the work of religion in the world — I believe "evangelical unitarianism" as my revered and beloved Father expressed it, to be the "doctrine of the gospel," i.e. simple Christianity, and as such I desire its extension: I value the holy truths, and without it I could not do the work which my Heavenly Father has given me to do — But I should not care much to convert any one to it, intellectually, only, nor do I value it, except as a living reality, which is to be carried with vivifying warmth to bear on every great social evil —

I am grieved to see the tone of many leading Unitarians on this subject, both here and in the United States, and regret greatly the leading article in the Inquirer today —

You, my dear Sir, have carried religion into the dark places of the earth, and have shed its life on the great social evils, which others pass by or ignore —

But I troubled you with this line to ask if I should be able to converse with you on these topics, if I could arrange to be in London at the end of this week.

Miss Cobbe wishes much to see you, and so do I.

Mrs Parker will tell me shortly whether it would be right to have any more visitors.

With much respect,

yours very truly,
Mary Carpenter.

Red Lodge House Aug 24. 1859

Dear Sir

I gladly embrace Miss Cobbe's permission to inclose a line of respectful and friendly congratulation that you have found benefit from the fine Mountain air of Switzerland, as well as doubtless from the zest of new and glorious scenery. This day the letter me is your birthday, and I would beg to offer to yourself and Mrs Parker my warm wishes that you may long be preserved to her and to the world. —
I feel assured that as long as you are in it, you will be striving to promote the well being of your fellow creatures in their highest interests.
I received your letter with much pleasure, and am much obliged by the sermons and volumes which I have not yet had time to read as Miss Kenrood has been staying with me. — I am much pleased with her, and think that her letters show a noble spirit and talent. You know that it is not usual for ladies to lecture among us, but the subject of Slavery sets at defiance all conventional rules. Whoever can, must strike a blow at it.
My brother Philip has gone through the ordeal of travelling in the Southern States, with his faith unwavering, and has borne a testimony in many places, and breathed a word of sympathy into many hearts.

He had the pleasure of hearing a note of sympathy with yourself most warmly received at the Boston Unitarian Meeting — My Brother Rufell has been passing through Bristol and begs me to offer you his warm thanks for the volume you have kindly sent him, which he likes much.

He and I strolled into the Cathedral to day and heard the Athanasian creed chanted to most exquisite music, as a remembrance of St Bartholomew —

With kind respects believe me.

Yours very truly,

Mary Carpenter.

Red Lodge House. Bristol

Dec 21. 1859.

Dear Sir,

Miss Cobbe kindly permits me to add a few lines to her letter, and I gladly do so to express to you how happy I am to hear that your health is improving, and that there is good reason to hope that you may yet be able again to labour in the Master's service, though not to hold your former position as a public speaker. The Heavenly Father knows what work He wants done, and gives His children all the strength He sees needful — We who revere your devoted labours may be permitted to be grateful that they may again be restored to us, as well as to sympathise with your near and attached friends, who hope to keep you yet near them — I congratulate them warmly that this new year is opening more happily on them

than the former one did, and beg you and them to accept my best wishes.

The late awful tragedy makes us happy that in your near state, you were away from the U. S. You could have done no good there, and your voice may be of the greatest importance if you are permitted to return. I believe that Dec 2 will prove the beginning of the end — Nothing but a separation of the diseased and rotten part from the comparatively sound can save the body. I am glad that the Martyr was at once irreproachable and single hearted, though his means were to my mind unlawful, and that the South has disclosed its cowardice and weakness. Its torpid, dead condition, my Brother Philip clearly saw, when he was travelling there. — I am glad that the South are so mad as to be contemplating subpoenaing Northerners as witnesses in the coming trial. I hope they will trample on the North until it is compelled to resist. —

I am preparing a little mark of sympathy with Mrs Brown in compliance with the wish expressed by her husband in his letter to Mrs Child, viz. a box of clothing, which I hope to send off soon. I am much grieved for Gerrit Smith, and am glad that Dr Howe and F. Douglass are safe.

I had the pleasure of accompanying to the "ship" at Liverpool our excellent Mr May, who carried with him the love and esteem of all. He left us an admirable sermon. I rejoice to have known him — I hope you are able to enjoy Rome.

With best wishes to yourself and Mrs P. Yours M. C.

From Philip P. Carpenter to Mrs Follen.

Bristol, Aug. 27th 1843.

My dear Friend,

Henry C Wright says that those who write from their heart ought not to use the world's cold phrases of "Madam", "Sir", &c and moreover ought not to make any apologies for addressing any human being, whenever they wish to express the feelings of their minds. I am now acting on this advice, partly because my friends Mrs Darlistine, and Mrs Ames encourage me to do so. I obtained a loan of the Memoir last Christmas for a fortnight, and read it to my sister Susan. I do not think I ever read a book which so interested and affected me. A month before, I spoke of Tuckerman and Follen and my Father, much in the way that my brother did, when preaching on the death of Dr Channing; but strange to say, I did not then know him so much as I did you. But now I feel that he has lived for me among thousands of others. I never read such a life of self-sacrifice for duty; but I am sure it must have been a happy life. Oh that every young minister had it and would copy its spirit. I have heard much more of him from H. C. Wright, who loved him most dearly, tho I believe he had held a discussion with him on the subject of defensive war. He is one who, like Dr F. has already obtained eternal life; this is indeed Christianity; not something to be obtained after death, but heaven now. He has told me so much of Dr F's persecutions for the anti-

slavery cause, and he has himself gone thro' so much, that I think of them as brothers: and I cannot think of one without the other, and without associating them both with my own Father. Now constantly we find that good men are like each other, while each have their own distinctive views and characters! Oh what a blessed reunion is there awaiting for them in the other state. Think of the delight when the Sea gives up its dead from Italy and Lexington, and those two spirits who knew but little of each other on earth, meet and commune in heaven. Does it not give us joy to think that there is such a heaven for them?

I thought of Dr F. on the first day of this year. I was attending service at a place in Manchester occupied by a congregation of Christians, who will allow of no sectarian distinctions, but recognize as brethren, all who have faith in Christ. Joseph Barker one of our purest spirits preached, and the room was decorated with texts "God is love" &c and wreaths of flowers and evergreens. I thought he would have truly sympathized with the pure free spirit, when about 150 of the most opposite shades of religious opinion, partook together of the sacrament, in true Christian love. And the decorations would have reminded him of the Christmas trees he was so fond of.

I hope there will soon be a call for a new edition of the book. I recommend it wherever I can, but I am sorry to say most of my people are too poor to buy any but very cheap books. When all the expensive editions are sold off may we not have a cheap edition, like ours of the

"Married Life". The book is destined to do great good.

N. C. Wright has made my little parsonage at "Stand in Manchester" his home for a few days, and has made me acquainted with much of our American friends. He wishes me to correspond with Brother May, which I am doing.

How truly the rapidity of interchange of thought enables us to realize that we are <u>not</u> Americans or Englishmen, but <u>only</u> men and Christians.

Oh that I may be enabled to tread in the steps of those I love!

With my love to your dear Son whom I made acquaintance with some years ago, through our friend Harriet Martineau, and of whom I should be delighted to hear any particulars, believe me with the most earnest wishes for your health and happiness,

Ever yours most faithfully,

Philip P. Carpenter.

I have written this in the greatest haste, sooner than lose the opportunity.

Martineau, J.

From Rev. James Martineau. Liverpool

Liverpool Oct 5th 1847

My dear Sir,

I cannot pay in kind for the great things you have sent me: but such as I have, give I thee. The volumes will teach you nothing, except that I am myself at least: and that is not a lesson worth learning. I was pleased to hear that the notice in the Westminster was ~~not~~ at all satisfactory to your friends. It did you no justice: having been written under great pressure, and after another article in which you were more fully discussed. Besides – the idea of packing you and Strauss into one paper! as well put the Mississippi and the Nile into a quart bottle. I find traces every where of the widening influence of your book, which penetrates into strange quarters, and breaks through the most rigorous cordon of sects. Your promised Quarterly excites much expectation among us. May it last longer than the Dial, and be a little more accessible to plebeian apprehension like mine.

With our kindest remembrances and hearty good wishes

Yours right truly

James Martineau.

P. S. I hope I shall not burthen you, by asking you, at your convenience to distribute the accompanying parcels.

Concord January 27th 1862

My dear Miss Parker:

I have received and read "patiently, kindly and justly" as you requested, your letter of the 4th, and I have delayed answering it that I might fully consider and reflect upon it. Need I say that I have read it with much pain. It contains very grave charges, seriously affecting my honor and sincerity. In some points you must have been misin-

this just.

your work.

on my

ny's, and

her boy

s under

nd I did

etter for

when. I

e & print

at an

my re-

I am

g those

& send

3

formed; or others your recollection differs from mine. But I cannot bear the thought of a controversy with one so nearly connected with my best friend, and whom I have so many reasons to respect and sympathise with.

I regret that you should feel called upon to answer my letter & have kept silence having already done so. That letter related to matters

which had previously been
subjects of conversation or corres-
pondence between us; and was
certainly not intended to cast
any reflection upon you.
nor am I responsible for what others may
have said or done.
I have never claimed to
be Mr Parker's actual litera-
ry Executor; that I was ap-
pointed by him for that pur-
pose I know, having had it
from his own lips. The same
communication was made to
and I done so by letter.
Respd Manley and say; the
all the Executors
have all been aware that

all power in the matter must come from you; nor have I ever claimed or acted otherwise. I did act for a few weeks under a misapprehension (as it turned out) of your wishes, but I acted in good faith, and I have made no collections in your name (I am confident) since Sept 14th 1860 nor have I ever had any intention of publishing papers belonging to you without your consent. I should look on such an

act with horror and disgust.

Nor am I obstructing your work.
that I am aware of -
The only letters of hers I am in any
possession besides my own are Mrs Davy's, and
perhaps Mrs Selsbee's. She may
placed her in my hands under
peculiar circumstances, and I did
not feel at liberty to allow her
self to retain them, when I
learned that he meant to print
whole letters. Nothing but an
accident has prevented my re-
turning Mrs Selsbee's & mine
long ago. Should letters of those
little men desire me to send

them & for I shall cheerfully do so. My copies of such letters as I have copied are my own property; should I ever attempt to publish them without your consent, - & to such I must first be untrue - the law would easily furnish a remedy.

Hoping that these statements may correct the misunderstandings in your mind, and thanking you for returning my own letter

I remain

Yours very Sincerely

J. B. Denton

Boston Jan^y 4^th 1862.

My dear Mr Sanborn.

When you called on Saturday afternoon, for your letters, I told you I was going to write you, and now I hope you will read patiently, kindly and justly all I have to say. I wish to give a plain simple statement of facts.

About the same time of receiving yours of the 17^th of Dec^r, another was handed me of the same date addressed to Mr Weiss. I regret very much that you had called upon to inspect Mr Weiss's proceedings, who I think was a stranger to you a year since, or to assume to find any fault with him for the length or manner of his writing a memoir which he was requested by myself to prepare, or that you speak to him of those who "have" arrogated" the performance of a work which you have desired to undertake.

I know full well whom you mean — God be thanked I have such a friend who from his love to Theodore, and I may also add from his friendship for me is willing to assist and aid me.

I have to remind you of the clause in my husband's will which bequeathed to me all his papers, Mss, and literary property: it was in these terms. 9th "to my wife beloved wife "Lydia D Parker aforesaid I give all my manu- "-uscripts, journals Sermons lectures and letters".

I might also state that in two previous wills, he had left to me and to my charge the same bequest. In this connexion I have seriously to complain of your collection and attempts to collect letters in my name, since whatever authority you might have had was withdrawn by me in mine of Decr 6th 1860. I have understood from Mr Ripley that you announced yourself to him as the literary executor of Mr Parker, and I learn also from Mr Silsbee, that you presented yourself to him in the

same manner. I am persuaded from what I have since heard from Mr Silsbee and from Mr May that neither these gentlemen nor Mr May of Syracuse would have forwarded to you any letter had they not supposed that you were acting in concert with me, and that I understood fully all your arrangements — much less had they supposed that you would act against me, and so obstruct the work I have in hand.

In making my arrangements for the publication of Mr Parker's works, I claime to act upon the best advice I can select, and I may say that I have been perfectly satisfied with such advice and assistance as I have received. Neither Mr Lyman nor Mr Weiss have acted towards me otherwise, than from the highest and most disinterested motives; they are neither of them seekers of fame, nor ambitious of reputation; while just to me, I think you will acknowledge — perhaps at some future day — that they have been just to Theodore.

acting from the highest & best, they can afford to wait for the judgment of the many. —
Should I go farther and call in all the most esteemed and dearest of Mr Parker's friends, where should I stop — not even at Neuchatel or Syracuse. It would be simply impracticable, and I hold the complaint of any one of them that I go on in "mysterious Silence" and do not consult certain individuals to be merely unreasonable. I simply am conducting my own business in my own way. Was it for me or Mr Wife or Mr Lyman to come forward and tell you, and your friends, just how far he had got on, when all such explanation was forbid either by the silent refusal of similar requests made by myself, or by the many intrinsic & unfair insinuations thrown out against one whom I had chosen to write a memoir of my husband, and those things said too by those who thought they loved that dear husband so much — aye the nearest and dearest — they

forgot that Theodore loved me, that his heart was bigger than his head, and any unkindness or unfairness shewn to me, he would feel whether in the Body or in the Spirit.

But even supposing that Mr Parker had at one time made any verbal arrangement with you, or had any conversation with you about his papers or memoirs of which you have never given me the facts — still it is certain that in his last days he made another disposition, and that any disposition that he did make must have been subject, and is now subject to my consent, because, always, the papers necessary to the labor you (I will not say "arrogate") undertake, have been left solely in my charge, and as the property of myself alone. And this was the view that I understood you to take of this matter in the Summer & Autumn of 1860 and in various letters which you wrote

to me. You are not however to understand from this, that I do object, or can object to any other person (yourself for instance) preparing a memoir of Theodore any more than that Mr Reville has done so in the Revue des deux Mondes. What I do object to is that you should profess to do so with his authority and as my friend — that you should call yourself his literary executor, that you should collect papers and letters that belong to me, letters of which only the qualified use is in the parties to whom they are sent and who have no right of publishing them: That you should so obtain papers, if not in my name, yet from persons who supposed that you were acting for me and under my authority, and then should unjustly refuse them to me and withhold them from me.

To review our correspondence. My husband died the 10th of May 1860. I returned to this country arriving the 5th of

June. Of course at that time I was agitated - worn and sad - with a heart full of sorrow and loss - with the memories of Lou sweetly saddened by the never failing tenderness of a dying husband, who was leaving me to lonelinss, ah! how deeply for me he felt that loneliness. In regard to what my friends were doing for me as Executors or friends, it was impossible for me to distinguish or to receive explanations, and perhaps to have understood them if offered, which I think they were not. Many events of interest and trial were constantly occurring. On the 25th of June, three weeks after my return, Theodore's will was proved in the Court. The next day after the will was proved, the 26th you wrote to a friend of mine announcing that the Executors "have decided "to publish with Mrs Parker's cooperation "the following volumes in the course "of the year" and so on stating a

programme of them. This letter was written without my knowledge, and as I have since been informed without consultation with Mr Manley and Mr May the other executors which might be supposed from the terms of the letter.

July 6th you write me

"I have undertaken to collect materials
"for a biography and shall try to recover
"as many letters of Mr Parker's as possible.
"We hope to print a memoir before Christ-
-mas. It is a work in which I take
"much pleasure though I feel myself
"very unequal to it."

As to this Mr Leyman informs me that you had some consultation with him as to making collections, that he agreed with you that such materials ought to be col-
-lected; that he had no other idea but that they were to be so collected entirely and exclusively in my name as my prop-
-erty and in my behalf. That you should now regard such collections as belonging to you

and for your own private use and to be published by yourself, I cannot but think to be unwarrantable. After that you proposed to Mr Lyman with yourself to obtain from me written conditions submitting every thing to those engaged in this work without any inspection on my part. Mr Lyman could not consent to this proposal thinking it unjust, ungrateful and disrespectful to me. In your letter of Sept 14th after you had received my letter advising you that I had appointed Mr Lyman as sole editor to act for me (he being unwilling to act jointly with yourself) you write to me speaking of the Collection you have made.

"It is my intention now to go on with it [the Collection]" not to be printed now but to "satisfy my own desire to do something "toward the work that Mr Parker so nobly "carried forward.

"I infer from your letter that Mr Lyman "shall be sole editor of the volume in ques- "tion and perhaps of the remaining one.

+ + + "Allow me to say that I am

6

"ready to be guided by your wish in the
"matter as indeed I must be. I shall be
"ready however at all times to render any ser-
-vice I can in the matter and whenever you
"choose to call upon me, I trust nothing may
"prevent my serving you."

There was nothing in this, to shew that you claimed to make collections to render difficult my labour, to obstruct them and to make it necessary for me to explain to others that in so doing you were acting not as my agent and for me, but from motives of your own. Also in your letter of Oct^r 23^rd 1860 after giving a list of persons to whom you have written you say that you have done this

"with the intention first of editing & writing me-
-moir of Mr Parker and afterwards (as at present)
"of aiding by these collections in the preparation
"of the Life and Correspondence which I have
"understood you to desire to have published
"at some future time." + + +

"I do not put forward any claim to
"this [assisting as to the Memoir]" or to any

"share in the work of editing Mr Parker's Mss.
"but am content to be guided by your choice in
"the matter"—

There was nothing in this to shew that you had made any collections for yourself and not for me.

Finally, yours of the 29th of Novr for the first time announced to me to my great surprise that you would not submit to me collections which you certainly could not have made from some of the pastors named in your list without my supposed Concurrence. In my reply of Decr 6th still addressing you in as kindly terms as I could command under such circumstances I expressed my regret

"that you should have misunderstood so
"far as to think you had the authority exclu-
"sively to use the collection"

This certainly was intended as a form of protest which I supposed you who had so often offered to be "guided by my wish" and to render "any service in "the matter" would understand and respect.

As to your allusion to the alienations "of the best friends of Mr Parker" it is my

believ that they lie throughout this Country and throughout the World. I will regard no little clique who assume to be "the friends" and who call to account myself and those working with me because I do not place myself in their hands.

In reply to your request for your letters — should I refuse it! If I did so, I should only do to you, as you are doing to me, I should re-tain what belongs to you, as you are retain-ing what was collected, at least in part, from persons who confided in you on my account, and wholly from persons who have and had no right to print and publish Theodore's letters, and so can transfer no such right to you. I have practically the same unjust power and the same right to pub-lish your letters in my hands which it seems you assume in respect to the letters which you have collected and hold to Mr Parker, but I should never be capable of doing so, and I therefore return your letter with the

remembrance of other years and other days, when in almost each week from Saturday night to dawn Monday morning you were our guest and our friend whom we loved. —
That his Spirit of Justice, and his Love may yet abound in your heart, is the sincere prayer of one near and dear to Theodore.

Truly yours
L. D. Parker.